

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed July 20, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 21, 2006.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-23 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of dependent claims 15-17, 20, 22 and 23 (page 6, Paper No. 20090715). The Official Action rejects claims 11, 13, 18, 19 and 21 as obvious based on U.S. Publication No. 2003/0062845 to Yamazaki. Paragraph 7 of the Official Action rejects claim 12 as obvious based on the combination of Yamazaki and U.S. Publication No. 2003/0022403 to Shimoda. Paragraph 8 of the Official Action rejects claim 14 as obvious based on the combination of Yamazaki and U.S. Patent No. 6,072,559 to Kanemori. In response and in accordance with the statement of allowed subject matter (Id.), independent claim 11 has been amended to include the allowable features of claims 14 and 15. Therefore, independent claim 11, as amended, recites allowable subject matter, and the above-referenced rejections are believed to be moot.

New claims 24-43 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. Independent claim 24 is based on claims 11, 14 and allowable claim 16. Independent claim 30 is based on claim 11 and allowable claim 17. Independent claim 36 is based on claim 11 and allowable claim 20. Dependent claims 25, 31 and 37 are based on claim 12. Dependent claims 26, 32 and 38 are based on claim 13. Dependent claims 27, 33 and 39 are based on claim 18. Dependent claims 28, 34 and 40 are based on claim 19. Dependent claims 29, 35 and 41 are based on

claim 21. Dependent claims 42 and 43 are based on allowable claims 22 and 23, respectively. For the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 24-43 are in condition for allowance. Claims 14-17, 20, 22 and 23 have been canceled as their features have been incorporated into other claims as noted above.

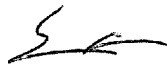
Accordingly, claims 11-13, 18, 19, 21 and 24-43 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 11, 24, 30 and 36 are independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action requests the Applicant's cooperation in correcting any errors of which the Applicant may become aware in the specification (page 2, Paper No. 20090715). The Applicant has not identified any errors in the present specification. If the Examiner has any specific concerns regarding the specification, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner bring them to the attention of the Applicant in a future communication. The Applicant will correct any errors in the specification of which the Applicant becomes aware.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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